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BOOK REVIEWS.

AGENCY. A Treatise on the Law of Agency in Contract and Tort, including special chapters on Attorneys at Law, Auctioneers, Bank Officers, Brokers, Factors, Insurance Agents, Travelling Salesmen, Public Agents and Officers, Master and Servant. By George L. Reinhard, A. B., L. L. D., ex-Justice of Indiana Appellate Court, Dean of the Law Faculty of Indiana University. Indianapolis: The Bowen Merrill Company, 1902. I Volume. 8vo. pp. 656.

The foregoing reproduction of the title page of this work would seem sufficient to indicate that the author must have intended it for use principally as a text-book in the law schools of the country, for which purpose it seems well fitted. As a matter of fact, it is not practicable in the year 1903 to treat fully and comprehensively these important subjects in the space of six hundred and three pages. But a student would only be bewildered with more, while he finds the general principles of the law of Agency clearly stated by Prof. Reinhard. The treatment of the subdivisions is not minute. Thus the law of real estate agents, as such, seems to be disposed of in less than half a page, and in the chapter on Attorneys at Law we have found no discussion of the right of an attorney to compromise a claim without the consent of his client. The author quotes other text-writers freely, and seldom expresses his own opinion in approval or criticism of the rulings of the courts, which opinion we believe would be valuable in states where the questions are new or unsettled.

These, however, are minor objections. It gives us pleasure to commend the work, as a whole, to those who are in search of the affirmative principles of this important branch of the law. The author has sought the fountains, and from these the student can follow the streams, confident that the careful perusal of the work will give him an initial grasp of the subject upon which he can safely predicate his further examination. The book-work is of the fine quality maintained by these standard publishers.

COMMERCIAL PAPER. A Treatise on Commercial Paper and the Negotiable Instruments Law, including the Law Relating to Promissory Notes, Bills of Exchange, Checks, Municipal Bonds, and other Negotiable and Non-negotiable Instruments, Commonly Classed as Commercial Paper, with an Appendix Containing the Negotiable Instruments Law and The English Bills of Exchange Act. By JAMES W. EATON, late lecturer on the Law of Contracts and Negotiable Instruments in the Albany Law School, and on Evidence in the Boston University Law School; Former Editor of The American Bankruptcy Reports, and Author of Eaton on Equity and of the third edition of Collier on Bankruptcy, and FRANK B. GILBERT, author of Gilbert on Domestic Relations, etc.

A feature of this branch of the law is that in the majority of the cases, the demand upon the lawyer for advice is a pressing one and as a consequence he must have ready at hand the best text-books. Questions involving thousands of dollars are presented to him with the request that he give his opinion at once. Only those who would create an impression of their entire familiarity with the subject (which one or two serious mistakes will remove), will give an answer to a novel question (and they are always arising), without asking for a reasonable time within which to examine the law. To restrict this time to the shortest limits,